



San Diego City Attorney CASEY GWINN

MEDIA RELEASE

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KENSINGTON COMMUNITY AND CITY ATTORNEY JOIN FORCES TO STOP NEIGHBORHOOD PESTICIDE POISONING

San Diego, CA (April 19, 2001) — It could be called San Diego's version of the "Erin Brockovich" story. A group of Kensington community members is fighting back against a neighbor, who is using excessive amounts of pesticides and other toxic chemicals on his property.

This week, San Diego Superior Court Judge Linda Quinn granted the City of San Diego a preliminary injunction against Bruce Giles, who lives at 4226 Middlesex Drive, ordering him to stop using pesticides and other chemicals on his property and on his neighbors' properties. Giles has told investigators that he needs to spray and spread pesticides to eradicate a mite infestation he believes he has.

On March 5, 2001, the San Diego City Attorney's Office filed a nuisance abatement action against Giles, alleging that he is creating a public nuisance by his excessive use of pesticides. The civil complaint alleges that Giles violated the California Civil Code by interfering with his neighbors' comfortable use and enjoyment of life and property. In written statements, neighbors have explained that the pesticide spraying began in July 2000 and continued on a regular basis until the City Attorney filed this action.

Neighbors obtained soil samples and worked with San Diego Police officers and San Diego County officials to document the pesticide poisoning. As a result of the pesticides, Giles' neighbors have suffered from headaches, sleeplessness, sinus problems, metallic taste in the mouth, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, lack of energy, burning eyes, respiratory problems, and toxic fume inhalation.

In the preliminary injunction, Judge Quinn has ordered that the defendant not possess or use any pesticides or other chemicals used as pesticides. Defendant has also been ordered to bring his property into compliance with state and local building codes and regulations.

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